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Twenty-Eighth Biennial Report
of the
Board of Trustees
of the

Historical Society of Montana



1945-1946



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From Date of Organization March 25, 1865

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Wilbur F. Sanders	1865-1890
Granville Stuart	1890-1895
Cornelius Hedges	1895-1897
William B. Hundley	1897-1903
Massena Bullard	1903-1909
Frank H. Woody	1909-1915
Charles B. Power	1915-1922
J. H. T. Ryman	1922-1926
James T. Stanford	June, August, 1926
Josephine I. Hepner	1926-

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Charles Rumley	1875-1885
William F. Wheeler	1885-1895
Wilbur E. Sanders	1895-1897
Laura E. Howey	1897-1907
William S. Bell	1907-1909
W. Y. Pemberton	1909-1922
James U. Sanders	1922-1923
David Hilger	1923-1937
John B. Ritch	1937-1942
Lucinda B. Scott	1942-

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1946

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA
TWENTY-EIGHTH BIENNIAL REPORT
TO
GOVERNOR SAM C. FORD
1 9 4 6

Helena, Montana
December 1, 1946

Hon. Sam C. Ford
Governor of Montana
Helena, Montana

Dear Sir

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-eighth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1945-1946 in compliance with statute requirements.

We are respectfully,
Your obedient servants,

JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,
President.

ROY CRISMAS, Vice President.
LUELLA WATSON
BENJAMIN P. HARWOOD
LUCINDA B. SCOTT, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN of the Historical Society of Montana

Helena, Montana
December 1, 1946

To the Board of Trustees of the
Historical Society of Montana,
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President.

Members of the Board:

I have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-eighth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1945-1946.

Too few Montanans realize how great a debt the State of Montana owes to those distinguished pioneers of the sixties who sought and obtained from the first territorial legislature the right to incorporate the Historical Society of Montana. Too few know how generously these men gave of their time, their effort and their money to an undertaking which they had the vision to foresee would be of an inestimable value to the great commonwealth that was to grow up in this new land. Neither the lure of wealth nor the great task of establishing law and order deflected them from building up a heritage of fact and tradition for future generations. Because they gave so much, Montana today has an Historical Society that should be a source of pride to every Montanan and that is a source of pride to the Board of Trustees and to the employees of the Library.

The chief function of the Society since its incorporation in 1865 has been the collecting and safeguarding of historical material related particularly to Montana and to the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest regions, and the making of this material available for use. How well the Society has performed this task in the eighty-one years of its existence is attested to by its accumulation of approximately 38,900 books and pamphlets, 5,073 bound files of newspapers, and its large collection of rare and valuable maps, diaries, journals, letters, autobiographies and biographical sketches of early pioneers. Also many writers and research workers in historical fields have testified to the value of the Society's collections which are widely known for their coverage of Western history.

The Society answers hundreds of queries on Montana history and furnishes information of many kinds on Montana by correspondence. It also furnishes, without charge, certified copies of obituary, birth and legal notices which appear in the early papers on file. To satisfy the student and tourist, it collects for distribution from all available

sources, published material on the history and the resources of Montana. In other words, it is an advertising as well as an historical information bureau for the state.

With the close of gasoline rationing, visitors to the Library increased greatly. Some of these were research workers who spent some time here gathering material from our files, and others were Capitol visitors from this and other states who were more particularly interested in the museum. Some notable gifts have been made to the museum this past biennium as an examination of the accession list will show. Some of these have not yet been put on display due to the lack of space and proper show rooms and equipment. The museum is largely dependent upon the interest of the people of the state for its acquisitions. Often, because of inadequate facilities here, valuable relics are deposited elsewhere. This condition should be remedied, either by restoring the rooms previously used by the library or by constructing the proposed building as soon as possible.

While the Library has always lacked a sufficient staff to regularly index current papers, indexes are being built constantly so far as time allows. A newspaper index of all important local subjects in the Montana press, both old and new files, would give the public easy, quick and accurate access to such information. Economic, religious, social, educational, biographical and political data should be indexed as it appears to insure a complete and satisfactory index.

The genealogical collection of the Society, some 600 volumes, grows slowly but steadily with little or no cost to the Society, largely through contributions, and includes town histories, family genealogies, vital statistics of many towns, particularly New England, and some general works on genealogy. An increasingly greater number of residents of the state visit the Library regularly for study along these lines and a sizeable part of the incoming requests by correspondence is for genealogical information.

Modern libraries dealing with such valuable source material as we have in our manuscript and newspaper files feel that microfilm service is necessary to insure its preservation and to make it available for wider use. Various departments of the state have expressed their need for microfilming, not only for the preservation of vital records but also because of the saving of storage space. It is to be hoped that the state will acquire this equipment and that a plan for its cooperative use can be arranged. Microfilm service in other libraries has made available to us, at small cost, some of the valuable material from original sources not in our library. The purchase by the Society of a Recordak has made our reading such films possible, so this year a film library has been started. Our collection will be increased as rapidly as our funds allow.

One function specified by law that we have been unable to carry out is that of publishing annually a volume of historical value. The

Society has not been able to fulfill this mandate because of the **failure of the legislature to grant the budget request for an appropriation** for this service. The Historical Society of Montana stands almost alone among the other Historical Societies of the nation in this respect and we cannot but feel that the loss to the state in the lack of such a publication is far greater than the saving of the small annual expenditure that it would entail. The frontier history of Montana in original manuscripts in our files, if published, would make available to students of history a great fund of source material and would, if published, add much to the prestige of the Library and the State of Montana. The last volume published in 1940 by the Society made the tenth in the series. It is our earnest hope that an appropriation will be made for this purpose by the 1947 legislature.

The increase in historical celebrations and pageants in the last few years is significant of a revived interest in the history of the state. The Historical Society has given information and encouragement in forwarding this work in community and school. We are happy to have had a hand in helping build some of these programs. We regret greatly the lack of suitable and available historical material in the schools. Readable books for schools and public libraries which portray the sturdy character of the Montana pioneer and the colorful, adventurous life he led are all too few. Because of this we hailed with pleasure the recent book, "MONTANA MARGINS. A State Anthology," sponsored by the Montana Study (through the Rockefeller Foundation), edited by Joseph Kinsey Howard, and published by the Yale Press. This book has condensed between its covers many pictures of Montana life "as it was and is" and we hope it will find its way into all school and public libraries in the state. The Society gratefully thanks Montana Study, Mr. Howard and the Yale Press for the copy sent to it.

In closing may I express my thanks and great appreciation:

To Governor Ford and all state departments for their cooperation and courtesy;

To you, the Trustees of the Historical Society of Montana, for your understanding, cooperation and interest in the work of the Society;

To Mrs. Anne McDonnell, Assistant Librarian, who because of her ability, experience and personality, has given services which need not and can not be measured by words;

And, finally, to all those others, who, by gifts or by spoken or printed word, have helped us attain our objectives.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCINDA B. SCOTT, Librarian.

Books Accessioned During 1945-1946

General works, newspapers, periodicals	215
Religion and philosophy	4
Sociology	127
Philology	7
Natural Sciences	17
Useful Arts	21
Fine Arts	4
Literature	42
History and Travel	293
Biography	51
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	781

Microfilms

- Diaries and journals of James Stuart, 1857-1873.
- Diaries and journals of Granville Stuart, 1857-1880.
- Diary of Fred Burr, 1857.
- Diary of A. B. Henderson, 1866-1872.
- (Microfilm copy of the originals in Yale University Library)
- Hewitt, R. H.—Across the Plains. Pub. 1862, (microfilm copy of book in Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif.)
- Crook, Gen. George Letters, 1875-1887. (Microfilm copy of original letter book in Hayes Memorial Library, Fremont, Ohio.)
- White, Sister Mary Afra. Catholic Indian mission influence in the development of Catholic education in Montana. 1840-1903.
- (Microfilm copy of doctorate thesis St. Louis University, 1940.)
- Correspondence relating to Indian affairs, Upper Missouri Agency, 1861-1869. (Archives Department, Washington, D. C.)
- Montana Democrat. Published Virginia City, Montana. 1867-1869.
- The Independent. Published Deer Lodge, Montana. 1867-1871.
- (Microfilm copy of original file in Bancroft Library, Berkeley, Calif.)

Gifts Other Than Books Received During 1945-1946

American Pioneer Trails Association.

Map by "Shorty" Shope of the Trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806.

Archibald, Mrs. Harold, Chinook Montana.

Collection of pictures (20) formerly owned by her mother, Martha E. Plassmann.

Banks, Mrs. Samuel L., Portland, Oregon.

Pictures of the Henry Macdonald ranch home of the early 80's, near Square Butte.

Barnes, Harold, Helena, Montana.

Ming theater program.

- Beaver, Adelbert, Helena, Montana.
Lead lines (freighting) rings, made from pitchfork tines.
- Binzel, Alice, Mary, Matilda and Sadie, Helena, Montana.
Framed picture of their father, Balthazer Binzel.
Pictures (4) of early Helena, Montana, scenes.
- Boardman, Mrs. Anna, Helena, Montana.
Framed pictures (3) Montana scenes.
Photographs of Deer Lodge County, Montana, pioneers mounted in scrap book.
- Bristol, Hiram J., Lewistown, Montana.
Collection of Montana automobile license plates, 1915-1945.
- Brophy, Mrs. P. J., Butte Montana.
Framed photograph of P. J. Brophy, early day merchant and prominent citizen of Butte, Montana.
- Casey, Mrs. Esther, Helena, Montana.
Photographs (8) of Montana pioneers and scenes of early day Montana.
- Cooney Family, Helena, Montana.
Model of a Blackfoot teepee.
- Dana, Mr. and Mrs. E. L., Great Falls, Montana.
Collection of Indian articles and relics mostly from Montana tribes.
- Dayton, Ohio, Public Library.
Photographs (2) of Neihart, Montana, 1891.
- Duncan, Lee, Anaconda, Montana.
Autograph of Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice-president, United States, 1893-1897.
- Engleking, Don, Butte, Montana.
Okinawa military currency, 5 yen.
- Evans, F. T., Seattle, Washington.
Photograph of cabin on highway 10, 25 miles west of Bozeman, Montana.
- Farnsworth, Major General C. S., Altadena, California.
Photographs (3) Fort Shaw, Montana.
- Fisk, James K., Berkeley, California.
Photographs (10) Helena, Montana, scenes.
- Fister, Harvey F., Helena, Montana.
Framed print of drawing by Charlie Russell about 1887.
- Flather, Mrs. Henry, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Flather, daughter of Capt. John Mullan, presented the Society with several items of historic interest, among these the chest used by her father at West Point, engineer drawings, a water color painting, etc.

Forbis, Marjorie E., Portland, Oregon.

Five issues of early Helena, Montana newspapers.

Friel, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, Helena, Montana.

Framed etching by Branson C. Stephenson of the Montana state capitol building.

Greene, Mrs. Augusta B. Berkeley, California.

Collection of Indian articles, war bonnet, drum, etc., made by her husband, the late Brigadier-general Henry A. Greene. Photographs (17) Indians, etc.

Haight, Herbert H., Lewistown, Montana.

Day books, ledgers, invoices, etc. 1905-1918. 8 volumes of the Judith Mercantile and Cattle Company.

Hanson, Mrs. Alonzo, White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

Banner of the Castle, Montana, Miners' Union, No. 17.

Hartman, Joseph, Zortman, Montana.

Photographs of freighting outfits. (8)

Hathaway, Mrs. Maggie S. Helena, Montana.

Framed photograph of self.

Hauser estate, Helena, Montana. Montana.

Large oil portraits of Governor Sam T. Hauser and his wife.

Hilger, Mrs. David, Helena, Montana.

Framed photographs (3) and one photograph.

Kessler, V. N., Helena, Montana.

Diploma, June 10, 1898, Montana Normal College, Dillon, Montana.

Maude M. Mosher (Kessler)

Framed picture of mayors of Helena, Montana, 1881-1946.

Mitchell, Sam, Helena, Montana.

Photograph of self.

Moore, Mrs. Elizabeth E. Helena, Montana.

Framed photograph of the meeting of the Society of Montana Pioneers, 1921.

Norris, Mrs. J. E., Helena, Montana.

Photographs of early day scenes and settlers of Montana, (3).

North Dakota State Historical Society, Bismarck.

19 photostat copies of sketches made by Gen. P. R. De Trobriand of Montana scenes in 1869.

Parker, Mrs. Rutledge, Missoula, Montana.

Photographs of Philipsburg, Montana, and early day residents of that region, (17).

Peck, W. H., Ekalaka, Montana.

Photographs of Indian pictographs near Ekalaka, Montana, (3).

Pierce, Harry M., Rosebud, Montana.

Snapshots and photographs of settlers and Indians of the Crow Reservation, (39).

Pope, Mrs. J. D., Helena, Montana.

Plans of stable built for George W. Shaw of Helena, Montana.
Montana state fair awards, diplomas, for best pancake flour,
1903-1910.

Public Employees Retirement Committee.

Framed photograph of the signing by Governor Sam C. Ford of
the Public Employees Retirement Act.

Roberts, Mrs. Ida Constans, Unionville, Montana.

Day books and ledgers of the Philip Constans store in Unionville,
Montana, 1869-1877.

Sanders, Mrs. L. P., Butte, Montana.

United States flag which covered the statue of Col. W. F. Sanders
when it was unveiled in the capitol building, Sept. 24, 1913.

Shepherd, Mrs. Caddie L. K., Helena, Montana.

Framed photograph of Mrs. Isabella Kirkendall.

Spencer, George, White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

Framed photograph of Mr. and Mrs. William Davenport, Montana
pioneers.

Photograph, Montana territorial legislature, council, 11th session,
1879.

Photograph, Montana state legislature, 1st session, 1889 of the
Democratic members of the senate.

Cabinet, first postoffice, White Sulphur Springs, Montana.

Staff, Matt, Helena, Montana.

Framed photograph of the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway
on the occasion of their visit to Montana in 1939.

Stephenson, H. J., Caldwell, Idaho.

Framed wreath of feather flowers.

Sweeney, William C., Helena, Montana.

Miner's pick with which Thomas Cruse made his discovery of the
the famous Drumlummon Mine of Marysville, Montana.

Syverud, H. B., Dagmar, Montana.

Photograph of Black Duck and Plenty Holes. (Indians).

Toole, Jack C., Shelby, Montana.

Photograph of the Blackfoot Agency on Badger Creek, Montana.

Topping, Mrs. Lucille, Helena, Montana.

Photographs (3) early day scenes in Montana.

Trail, Dr. E. B., Berger, Missouri.

Photograph of the steamboat "Yellowstone," Missouri River.

Treloar, Sam, Butte, Montana.

Framed photograph of self.

Framed photograph of the Boston and Montana Band of Butte, Montana.

Walker, J. W., Helena, Montana.

Framed photograph of Governor Sam C. Ford and J. W. Walker.
(War bond purchase).

Warner, Frank, Buffalo, South Dakota.

Alzada Fairplay (newspaper) issue of Feb. 1, 1918.

Whalen, Mrs. Ruth Carpenter, Helena, Montana.

Oil painting of St. Mary's Lake, Glacier National Park, by Ralph DeCamp.

White, Mrs. M. H., Bozeman, Montana.

Agate collection of Harold C. White.

Framed photograph of Harold C. White.

Williams, Mrs. Jerome, Big Timber, Montana.

Photograph of the members of the House, 2nd session, 1891, of the Montana state legislature.

